

5/5/15 Update on Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release, Cruz Bay, St. John

On 4/27/15 an EPA OSC, ERT, and contractor support re-moved to St. John to continue clearing activities in “J” Lower. The work involved ventilation on the unit with high velocity fans and the use of carbon absorption units. These activities concluded on 5/1. A 24 hour sampling event was conducted in “J” lower on 5/1-2. Results revealed that the concentration of Methyl Bromide is still above the Reference Concentration (RfC) of 1.3 ppbv. The RfC is the value that will be used for clearance of the units. Unit “J” upper is currently under the RfC.

There are no EPA resources on Site. It is expected that 1 OSC, 1 ERT and 2 SERAS contractors

On 5/1 RPB participated on a conference call with representatives from ATSDR, VI DPNR and VI DOH, to discuss using the RfC of 1.3 as the clearance value for the Siranusa units. The discussion involved an explanation by ATSDR as to how the RfC is derived. It was also discussed that the ultimate decision to clear the individual units will be a joint decision between DOH and DPNR.

The REOC continues working with EPA Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch to evaluate options for management of existing stocks of the fumigant. Stocks of Methyl Bromide have been identified at facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix, consisting of one cylinder at each of two facilities. REOC has been in contact with the distributors of the cylinders on St. Croix and St. Thomas and is arranging transportation off island, in coordination with CID and DOJ. On 4/30 CID completed over-packing of the cylinder on both St. Thomas and St. Croix. CID/DOJ are currently arranging for the transport of the containers off island. On REOC has also been coordinating with ATSDR and VI DOH regarding clearance values for re-occupancy, and for responding to e-mail and telephone inquiries.

Resources On-Site: 1 OSC, 1 ERT, 1 RST contractor, 2 SERAS contractors

R2 REOC remains the point of contact for all EPA’s activities related to this incident.

EPA is still working cooperatively with DPNR, EPA CID, DOJ, ATSDR, USVI DOH and the condo complex management company.